

# BIG EXHIBIT PARK PLANNED IN BRONX

205-Acre Freedomland Will  
Have Mock Cities and Trips  
by Wagon and Steamer

By FARNSWORTH FOWLE

Freedomland, planned as one of the largest outdoor entertainment centers in the world, is scheduled to open in the northeast Bronx on June 1, 1960.

It will tell in forty-one action exhibits the story of the settlement and growth of the United States.

Exhibits will include visits to "Little Old New York" of 1750-1850, Bunker Hill and Plymouth Rock, Chicago in its early days, Mississippi stern-wheelers and Conestoga wagons. The Lewis and Clark expedition to the Northwest will also be depicted, as will San Francisco's Barbary Coast and earthquake and Los Angeles when the movies were young.

The eastward return will be by stagecoach, narrow-gauge railroad, through Spanish fiestas and Louisiana bayous, with a journey in a war correspondent's wagon between the lines during a Civil War battle.

C. V. Wood Jr., president of the Marco Engineering Company of Los Angeles, announced the project yesterday at a press conference in the Empire State Building. He was general manager of Disneyland from 1954 to 1956 during the planning and construction of that entertainment center at Anaheim, Calif.

## To Cost 16 Million

The new center, to cost \$16,000,000, will be operated by the International Recreation Corporation, which will open its first site, Pleasure Island, at Wakefield near Boston, next month. Peter De Met, president of the corporation, joined in the announcement of plans for Freedomland.

The 205-acre Bronx site is the southerly part of a 400-acre tract owned by the real-estate concern of Webb & Knapp. It is between the Hutchinson River and the Hutchinson River Parkway on the east and the sweeping curve of the New England Thruway on the west.

A spokesman for Webb & Knapp confirmed the lease to Freedomland and said that plans for developing the remaining 195 acres of the tract included a 600-room drive-in hotel. Part of the northerly section may also be developed as an industrial park and for housing, he added.

Bronx Borough President James J. Lyons told the press conference he was "thrilled" by the project. He said the Board of Estimate had "done everything necessary" by the city to prepare the way.

## Agreeable on Name

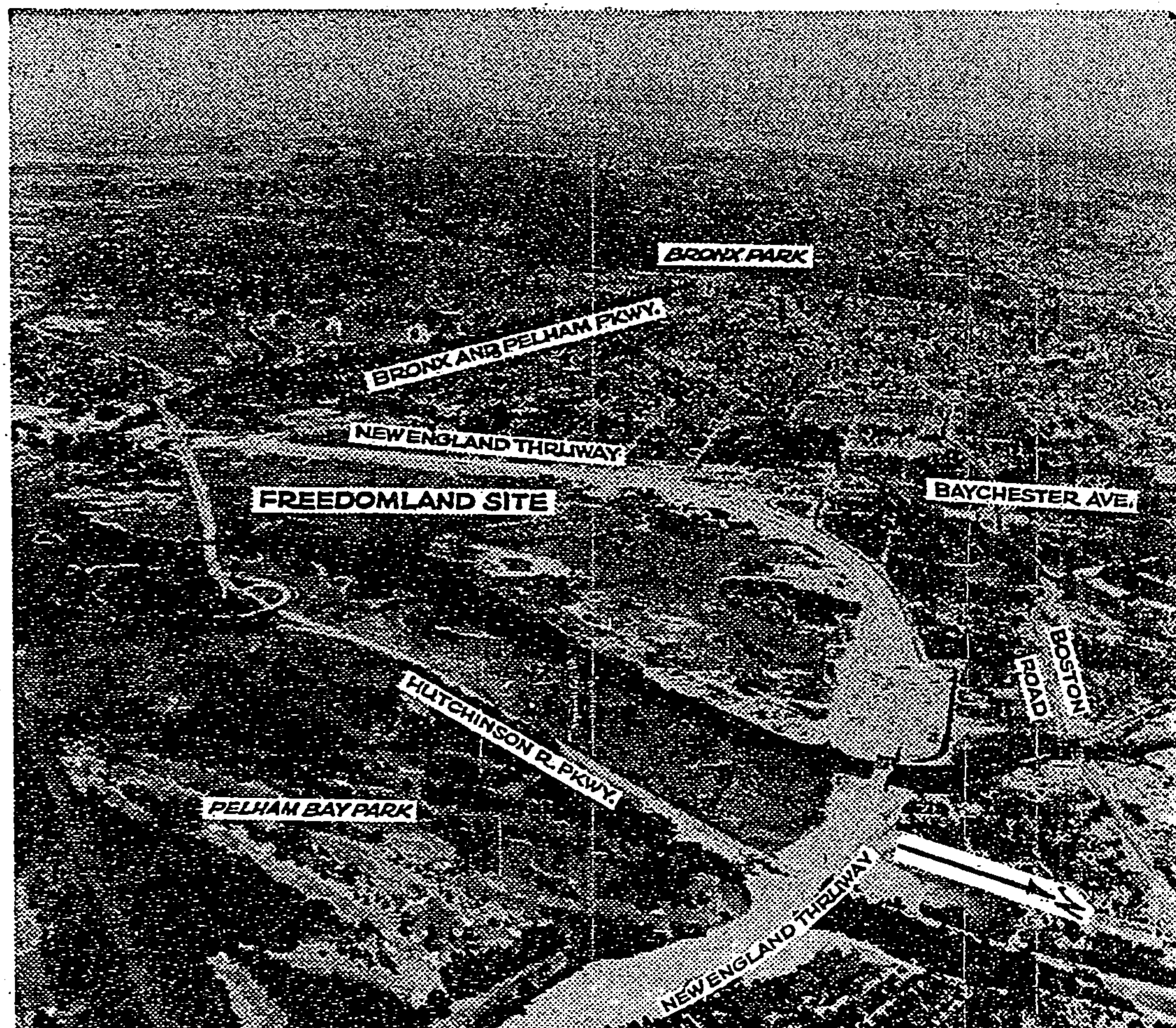
He jovially said he was agreeable to changing the name of the section from Baychester to Freedomland, "as long as it's Freedomland in the Bronx."

Messages hailing the project came from Mayor Wagner and Charles H. Silver, president of the Board of Education. Both emphasized the historical and educational nature of the center.

Mr. Wood said that there would be regional restaurants as well as snack stands, but that no liquor would be served within Freedomland. Other commercial concerns are expected to build exhibits of their own to illustrate the roles of various industries in the development of the country, he said.

He estimated admission charges as 90 cents for adults and 50 cents for children, with further charges of 10 to 50 cents for the special rides and exhibits.

More than half of the 205 acres will be used as a parking lot for 12,500 automobiles, he said. The site can also be reached from the Pelham Bay terminus of the IRT subway.



**FREEDOMLAND**, a huge outdoor entertainment center, will rise in area bounded by Hutchinson River Parkway and New England Thruway in Bronx. View is to southwest.